

The Cheerful Letter

EVERY PLACE A CHURCH; EVERY DAY THE LORD'S DAY; ALL EVENTS BLESSINGS; ALL JOY
THANKSGIVING; AND ALL NATURE AND LIFE FULL OF GOD.—James Freeman Clarke

VOL. XXXIII

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INVITATION

Souls of men, why will ye scatter
Like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will ye wander
From a love so true and deep?

It is God. His love looks mighty,
But is mightier than it seems.
'T is our Father, and His fondness
Goes far out beyond our dreams.

There 's a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There 's a kindness in His justice
Which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations
In that upper home of bliss.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

But we make His love too narrow
By false limits of our own
And we magnify His strictness
With a zeal He will not own.

If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word,
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

—F. W. Faber

THE EYE OF THE SOUL

*The light of the body is the eye; if therefore thine
eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.—*

MATT. VI, 22.

JESUS built His teaching upon an illustrative figure which everyone could understand. These words are part of the Sermon on the Mount. Try to get the picture before your mind. On a bright, fresh morning Jesus is sitting, halfway up a hillside in Galilee, with a group of attentive hearers. All around Him is the radiant landscape. Almost at the mountain's foot the lake of Galilee is flashing in the sun. The soft, rounded hills roll away like waves on every side, the quiet valleys nestling in between them. Here and there, little white villages give life and movement to the scene. The birds fly through the air; the cattle are plodding at their tasks; all the earth seems bright and fresh and clear, full of vitality and beauty. And then here, close around him, are these men with all their sensitiveness, all their human power to enjoy and understand this world. They are the other half of the picture: Nature and man—these two.

And now, as Jesus looks at all this, He begins to praise the human eye. "The light of the body is the eye," he says. What does He mean by that? Is it not that He is rejoicing in the appointed channel through which these two halves of the world may come into connection? Nature and man must stand apart, two separate worlds, were it not for that marvelous and precious avenue of sight, which brings the two together, and lets the man, with his inner power of knowledge, know the outer world. Without the eye, the world might still be real; but it must be unknowable to the man sitting in the prison of his sightlessness, where all the glory cannot reach him. But he opens the window of his eye and it all comes pouring in; runs through his frame and finds his intelligence; says to his

brain, "Here I am; know me." Says to his heart, "Here I am; love me."

So Jesus spoke; and we can well imagine His words awoke some new grateful delight in their own blessed power of vision, among those thoughtful men who heard Him. But it was not for that purpose that He had spoken. He was thinking of the world of unseen, invisible, spiritual life, and what He meant to say must have been that the spiritual world too could report itself to the human intelligence through its own appointed channel of communication, just as the world of visible Nature manifests and reports itself through the eye.

Now it is the existence of that unseen world, about which man's profoundest hopes and fears have always clustered. It is a world in which the true existences are souls instead of bodies; where the forces are the temptations and aspirations which only the spiritual life can feel; and whose central sun is not a burning globe hung in the heavens but a personal God, who feeds all the souls of his children with his love, and guides them by his wisdom, and blesses or punishes them by his judgment. These cannot report themselves through the eye; but Jesus says that that world is a real world, and that there is an organ which is to that world of spiritual life what the eye of the body is to the world of trees and lakes.

And what then is that organ? The name by which it is best known is conscience. He that uses his conscience, he that means to do what is right, out of obedience to God, shall come to the knowledge of God and of his own soul. Conscience is the faculty by which we judge of acts as right or wrong. Each man says of characters, "This is good"—or "this is bad," just as, judging by his eye, he says, of the branch of a tree, "This is straight"—or "this is crooked."

Suppose you are sitting inside a window, facing the tree, and you are blind. Something happens that makes you get your sight. That tree becomes real to you. Just so, God is here before you now; but if you have no open conscience, you do not care whether things are right or wrong. You have no perception of the difference between right and wrong. You do not feel the dreadfulness of being bad or the beauty of being good. But suppose, by and by,—suddenly or gradually,—all that changes. Your shut conscience opens. You begin to feel the difference of right and wrong; you begin to try to do right. And then it is, in the pursuance of that effort, that there become gradually real to you certain things that had found no recognition before.

The conscience stands between man's power of knowledge and the spiritual world, just as the eye stands between man's power of knowledge and the world of visible Nature.

We have spoken thus far as if all that was necessary, in order that the eye of man should see the world of Nature, was that the eye should be open; but we know that something else is needed. The world of Nature may be there in all its beauty, but the openest eye will not see it, if it be not turned that way. The wide-open eye, turned toward a blank wall, will not see the mountain and the meadow. Is there anything that corresponds to this in the case of conscience and its perception of spiritual truth? Surely there is. There are things which no conscience can see if it is turned the other way. If we can recall a time when we did our duty as faithfully as we knew how, and yet never looked (nor tried to look) beyond ourselves and the world in which we lived—that was a case of the open eye looking down instead of up: looking away from God and not to Him. Of course it did not see Him. When the desire to do right began to turn itself and to *look up*; when it began to desire to obey and please and depend upon whatever highest being in the universe might have anything to do with that soul and its struggle—then the soul knew God! The man who is trying to do right in selfish self-dependence may toil on unlightened; but the man who is trying to do right, Godward, who is humble and hopeful of things higher than himself—to him, through the openness of the faithful conscience, the vision comes; and he sees God.

Every man carries about with him such a capacity as this. The necessity of doing right, of struggling with temptation, which has so often seemed to make life a hard slavery—see what it really is! It is the opening of the eye through which the whole world of unseen spiritual light and life, all the being and power and love of God, may flow in on us and become real in our own life! That boy—keeping himself true when other boys are tempting him to be false, keeping himself lofty when other boys are tempting him to be base—he is no toiler in a treadmill: he is a climber of the Delectable Mountains, from whose height he shall see heaven and God. And, as he climbs, the promise of the vision is already making his dull eyes strong and fine, so that, when the vision comes, he shall be able to look right into its deep and glorious heart.

So long as man is able to do right, Godward, to keep his conscience pure and true and reverent, set upon doing the best things on the highest grounds, he carries with him an eye through which the everlasting light assuredly will shine in on his soul.—*Phillips Brooks.*

Let the day have a blessed baptism by giving your first waking thoughts into the bosom of God. The first hour of the morning is the rudder of the day.

THE BOOK AND MAGAZINE CLUB

Send all offers and requests for this department to Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 25 Fairmount Way, Quincy, Mass.
Tel. Granite 1140

Please remember, when you see a request for a book in the Book Club, to write a card to Mrs. Nichols, asking "Shall I send such a book to such a person?" before sending it, else the person who requests it may receive several copies. When anyone writes directly to you, asking for a book offered by you, send a card to Mrs. Nichols, saying that you have sent it. When you receive more requests than you can meet, send those to the Book Club to be printed here.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Please read and follow the suggestions

It will greatly aid those who are sending books, magazines, cards, and so forth, if all our correspondents who send requests for their children will take pains to mention their names and ages. Lacking such information, one is likely to make mistakes; for a boy of twelve and a girl of seven are not usually interested in the same things.

When requesting books for the first time, correspondents should always give, as reference, the name and address of their clergyman.

When correspondents move to a new address, notice should be sent either to our headquarters, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., or to those persons who have been sending books and magazines.

It is necessary that letters be written with ink.

Those who enjoy receiving books and magazines are asked to remember that they, in their turn, can give much pleasure if they will take pains to write to the persons who send such reading matter. In cases where no word of response goes back—not even to say that the books or magazines were received—senders may suppose the parcels were not welcome. Let us each do our share towards a friendly understanding.

REQUESTS

1. Ora Black, Floyd, Va., R. 4, Box 73, a little girl crippled from birth, is anxious to receive croquet thread, any color, size twenty or fifty.

2. Mrs. Kate Pendleton, Stella, Va., a shut-in for five months, will appreciate light reading, scraps and cards.

3. Mrs. Girtha Tyson, Polkton, N. C., R. 2, asks for the *Woman's Home Companion*.

4. Margaret Hill, Campbell, N. C., a thirteen-year-old girl, asks for reading, post cards, and either silk or cotton pieces for quilts.

5. Mrs. Rosa Magee, Forestburg, Texas, wishes to thank those who have sent her reading and to let the friends know that she cannot write them, as she is ill. She has been in a sanatorium for some time; an operation not reaching the trouble, she is now having X-ray treatment. She would like to have little stories sent her boy Fay, aged nine, and Dawn, a little girl aged five.

6. Harlan Board, Boyce, Warren Co., Ky., nineteen years of age, will be very glad of suitable reading.

7. Mrs. Thomas Sigmon, Elamsville, Va., asks for a Bible with large print, picture books and cards for her little girl, Mattie, three years old, and scraps for herself.

8. Mrs. Melton Moseley, Maple Hill, N. C., is alone much of the time and will appreciate magazines or story books. Two little children are staying with her: Andrew James, aged ten, and Rebecca James, aged eight.

9. Bessie Hill, Marshville, N. C., R. 2, Box 34, will be glad of any of Zane Grey's books or any good novel.

10. Thank you for all past acts of kindness. I need some helps in my study and work. Please help me by sending these books: "Anthon's Latin Grammar," any history, any good works on science, "The Minister and His New Testament Greek" by A. T. Robertson, "Moffitt's Translation of the New Testament," "A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research" by A. T. Robertson, and please continue to send the *Literary Digest*. I shall appreciate anything you send. W. R. Chapman, Lois, Fauquier Co., Va.

11. Mrs. Polly Hall, Elamsville, Va., will appreciate quilt pieces of any kind. She wishes to thank all the friends who have remembered her in the past. She is getting old and her husband is away from the house, at work, much of the time, leaving her alone.

12. I am a widow with two little girls, one nine years old and the other five. We would

appreciate reading matter or anything that would cheer a lonely heart. Mrs. Rosa Sharpe, Warrensville, N. C.

13. I am a widow, seventy years old, living with my daughter who is unmarried. I would appreciate quilt pieces, knitting thread, bits of ribbon, and magazines to pass away the time. We live in the country. I would be glad to correspond with anyone who cares to hear of the Boston Mountains. (For reference: Rev. H. O'Neil, Rupert, Ark.) Mrs. S. M. Lively, Copeland, Ark.

14. I am writing to thank the *Cheerful Letter* friends for the pleasure they have brought me through letters and other things. I want everyone who has sent me anything to know that I have appreciated it to the highest. I certainly have been comforted lots with the patchwork pieces and the books and cards for the children. My address has been changed to Stuart, Virginia, Route 5, since I wrote to the paper the last time. I am the mother of four children—three boys from four months to seven years and a girl of three years. We are poor people, living in the mountains, and have to work mighty hard for a living. I shall be twenty-eight years old the 30th of June. I hope to receive more patchwork pieces, and some embroidery thread, and books and cards for the children. May God bless you for the happiness and the friends you have brought to me and my family. Mrs. Georgia G. Massey, Stuart, Va., Route 5.

15. I wish to thank the friends for what they have sent me. I would love to write them all personally, but can't spare the postage. They have my whole heart's best desires and my little family's. I am so thankful for what the ladies send me; what reading matter you send is passed on to those that enjoy good reading. Mrs. J. G. Hartzog, Jefferson, N. C.

16. I am an orphan girl, seventeen years old, living far from the city, and would appreciate magazines, books and music. I am fond of reading and crocheting. I live on a farm with an aged uncle. My pastor's name is Rev. J. A. Thornton, Bridgeboro, Ga. Any books or magazines sent to me I will gladly pass on to others. Kate Tidd, Sylvester, Ga., R. F. D.

17. Some of the wrappers were torn on the magazines I got, and I could not make out the addresses. I would like to thank all who have sent me magazines and quilt scraps. I certainly do appreciate them. Addie Kingsley, Copeland, Ark.

18. I wish to thank all the *Cheerful Letter*

friends who have helped me in the past, and I hope they can still help me. I fell a week ago and sprained my ankle and can't walk a step yet. It is awful hard to have to stay in when there is so much work to do. I would be glad if some of the friends could send me some scraps for my quilt; I could use them while I can't do anything else. Mrs. W. A. Foley, Bassett, Va.

19. *McCall's Magazine* is asked for by Mrs. A. B. Finley, Lakeland, Tex.

20. My mother gets the *Cheerful Letter* from an aunt, and I read an offer in it of some books we would be glad to read. We are great readers and would appreciate it very much if you would send us books or magazines of any kind. I would like to have "Moon-Face" by Jack London and "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" by John Fox, Jr. Anything you can send us we would be glad to have. Phoebe Bondurant, The Hollow, Va., Route 1.

21. May we two motherless girls join the Book and Magazine Club, of which our mother was so long a member? Annie has just graduated from high school and Frances will be a junior next term. We are extremely fond of reading and we have no access at all to any library, pictures, or concerts, and are far out in the country. We should be very glad of any of the recent fiction and new magazines, also standard poetry, especially Kipling, and the anthologies, American and English from 1914 to the present. We will gladly answer fully any inquiries about books and magazines that we particularly wish for, if anyone cares to write to either of us. We will be very grateful for anything sent. Some of the things we are anxious for are Gibbs's "Yellow Dove" and others of his; Hough's "Covered Wagon" and others; any of late years by Mary Roberts Rinehart, Kathleen Norris, Gertrude Atherton, Margaret Deland, Zane Grey, E. M. Dell, Curwood, Brown, etc. Annie Drummond and Frances Drummond, Sandidges, Va., R. 1, Box 28.

Changes of Address

Mrs. S. B. Smith is now at Leakville, N. C., Box 46.

Mrs. Lena T. Wood, now at Woolwine, Va., R. 1, Box 70.

Mrs. Georgia B. Massey, now at Stuart, Va., R. 5.

Christine Rea, for the summer, at Spencer, Va.

Please discontinue sending reading matter to Thomas C. Kelly, Mankato, Minn.

CHEERFUL LETTER ANNUAL REPORT

1923-1924

THE Cheerful Letter Exchange has added another year of loving and tireless service to its record. Chairmen from the various Alliance Branches have drawn inspiration and practical help from the monthly meetings, which have been held from October to May, inclusive. The average attendance has been 49 and the average number of Branches represented has been 35. The December meeting was the largest, with 65 present.

At each meeting Mrs. Nichols has presided. Her gracious presence and the example of her unstinted effort have spurred many chairmen onward to greater endeavor. The account of the meeting, which she has forwarded every month to distant committees, has carried to them some of the enthusiasm which near-by workers feel.

Miss Annie F. Brown, Executive Secretary of the Lend A Hand, was present at three meetings and as ever her clarion call to service met with ready response. In December Miss Williamson, a public health nurse, spoke about the work accomplished by the Hindman School in Kentucky. Her message made everyone even more eager to aid the Southern mountain schools.

It has been a pleasure to have the Secretary of the Alliance and one of its Directors each present at a meeting.

The Cheerful Letter Exchange has received considerable publicity from an account of its aims and endeavors, written by Mr. E. F. Dickenson of Billerica and published in the *Rural New Yorker*. As a result, many offers of assistance have poured in.

Mrs. Stevens, chairman of the Library Committee, reports a year of worth-while accomplishment. It is a wonderful thing to be able to place collections of books in tiny Southern towns, whose inhabitants are too poor to buy reading matter. It is difficult for favored Northerners to imagine living where all schoolbooks used in a whole county must be procured from one specified store. Southern States do not provide free textbooks. The cost of purchasing a year's supply for two children in an elementary school in North Carolina is \$15. In Mrs. Stevens' own words: "This means that several children in the same neighborhood use the same books. Is it any wonder that there is a lack of intensive school work? One of our librarians in Arkansas extracted all the school books from the collection sent her and passed them around to needy children. She wrote what she had done, adding that the need was so great that she hoped I would not mind.

"In May, 1923, we took up a collection for

prizes for a speaking contest at the McDaniel Industrial School. This money went for subscriptions to the *Modern Priscilla* and the *Open Road* for the girl and the boy who were successful contestants. The winners voluntarily offered to keep the magazines in the school library for the enjoyment of all the pupils. We are especially interested in the library of this school for colored students. Rev. A. A. Smith is working hard to bring this institution up to county requirements, that it may be placed on the approved list for state aid. He needs more equipment, one or two more registered teachers, and a collection of specified books. I quote from Mr. Smith: 'Packages of books are coming in nearly every week. God bless you all for your consecrated effort in behalf of my people and school.'"

The Library Department has started six new stations in North Carolina this year. One librarian, a normal-school graduate, who has recently moved, has taken some of her books with her. She asks for new material because the girls in the neighborhood are forming the habit of dropping in after work in the evening to read together, and she wishes to keep them interested. Two new libraries have been started in Virginia and one in Tennessee. One in Vermont is in charge of a High School principal, who uses his material both in Sunday school and day school. Libraries have been placed in Massachusetts at the Rutland Sanitarium and at the School for Crippled Children in Boston. Two traveling libraries in New Hampshire were destroyed by fire. New ones have happily taken their places. In all fifteen new libraries, totaling 3,001 books, have been put into circulation this year through the help given by thirty-one different Alliance Branches. In the last four years approximately 10,000 volumes have been distributed to 149 libraries in 27 states, including two in the Virgin Islands and one in the Philippines. The committee of the Alliance of the First Church, Roxbury, Mass., leads in the number of books placed in libraries this year.

Mrs. Sands, Chairman of the Home Study Committee makes the following report: "There are four lines of work in which the Home Study Committee is interested, namely, the sending of textbooks, lessons by correspondence, work with mothers and children, and the more advanced work in such subjects as literature and art. Regular work has been carried on by correspondence with twenty-four pupils, all of whom wish to continue next year. There are pupils from Canada to Texas, ranging in age from a girl of twelve years to the father of five children. A family of six in Canada came in touch with our committee. They were remote from schools; the mother had recently died. Books sent and help given enabled the father and eldest daugh-

ter to teach the younger children. We came into these lives at a time when they sorely needed encouragement. This personal interest is a big factor in our success. A crippled boy in Texas has studied faithfully under our guidance for two years. It has meant much to this boy to receive the supplementary reading and pictures that went with his lessons. A lonely woman of thirty, living in the Virginia mountains, where it costs \$50 to have a doctor's visit, is striving to improve her English. A boy of fifteen, who had to leave school to work on the farm, is studying arithmetic under a trained teacher. His mother is being helped in dressmaking and the care of children. The work with mothers and children has been experimental. The mothers are eager to learn and to give their children a better chance than they have had. We hope to give mothers in rural districts a better understanding of the care of their babies. We plan by fall to have some advanced courses in art, literature, and science typewritten and ready for distribution, also elementary courses prepared in the same way. This will give our teachers a better idea what they are expected to do, and will dignify the work in the eyes of the pupil."

Mrs. Sands concludes as follows: "Great encouragement has come from the help that has come to us. A lady in Melrose has offered a variety of pictures. The American Chemistry Society has presented five late books on chemistry as related to every-day life. The Woman's Educational Alliance of the South is willing to coöperate. Our own Alliances have responded to all our appeals. With such splendid coöperation, we should be able to render greater service next year."

Too much cannot be said in commendation of the work of the chairmen of the Library and the Home Study Committees. Their faithful and long hours of service have done much in helping the *Cheerful Letter* Exchange to realize its ideal of becoming a valuable dispenser of education.

Mrs. Hallett has been able, with the coöperation of several chairmen, to answer requests for thirty-two Bibles and six Testaments.

The "sunshine bags" play an important part in the publishing of the *Cheerful Letter*. Their contents have again wiped out the deficit, with a balance toward the editing of the paper. Mrs. Brush of All Souls Church, New York, still holds the record for the largest amount turned in by any Branch from the little yellow bags.

Requests for annual reports have been sent to all *Cheerful Letter* chairmen listed in the Manual. One hundred and twenty-five have responded, with the record of such diversified activities that many pages would be needed to do full justice to them. A goodly sum of money has been expended. Some Branches make no appropriation for this work and the committee members pay

all the postage, etc., from their own pockets. In others the yearly appropriation varies from \$2 to \$100. The number of correspondents of the different Branches varies from one to fifty-two. An attempt to determine the total number of articles which have been sent is difficult, for many people send generously but fail to keep any count. Actual figures, taken from the various reports, give the amazing total of 84,136 articles, of which 27,662 were magazines and 24,623 cards. Your secretary is sure that these numbers are really far too small. The First Congregational Alliance of Providence, R. I., leads here, for they have sent 10,625 things during the year.

Not all the recipients of cheer live long distances away. Many chairmen place reading in near-by hospitals, town homes, sailors' missions, and jails. At Christmas-time many of these places receive a perfect avalanche of good things. The Cambridge First Parish Committee still continues to send its regular visitor to the City Home, where they are able to supply "forlornities" with little luxuries. The Waltham Committee owns a wheel-chair, which it loans to unfortunates.

Who can measure the help and enjoyment which the books and magazines, sent by *Cheerful Letter* workers, carry to lonely Southern communities? The school-teacher in a Virginia town, where the compulsory-education law is being enforced for the first time, and where fifteen-year-old children, who have never before entered a schoolroom, are sent to her for instruction, must find a year of an educational magazine a veritable godsend. The lonely mother of a large family of children, who is obliged to spend all the money available for shelter, food, and clothing, and who is starving for change and beauty, must consider a year of *House and Garden* an absolute feast. The ex-postmistress of a mountain town, who has broken her hip, has many dreary hours whiled away by the occasional novel, which parcel post brings her. Best of all, these people and hundreds like them share their reading with others. Such readers enjoy receiving mail often. Sixty current magazines, which the Alliance of Peterborough, N. H., sends monthly, must be very welcome.

There are many children who are made happy at Christmas time by the boxes of toys and goodies, cheerfully sent. Community trees from Montana to Tennessee and South Carolina are decked with gifts from Unitarian workers. School Christmas trees owe their being to the same source, and the families made happy in their own homes are legion. At this season correspondents who have seemed irresponsible, unappreciative, or importunate, frequently show tangible proof of the gratitude which their

faulty writing does not allow them to express. Chairmen are gladdened by gifts of apples, chestnuts, cotton bolls, wonderful greens, and now and then a chicken. One lady was surprised to receive two rattles from a rattlesnake, killed by the correspondent and her husband. Such evidences of appreciation make up for the failure of some of the recipients of bounty to acknowledge favors received. If chairmen desire answers, they should be sure to enclose self-addressed and stamped envelopes. When semi-occasionally these fail to produce results, they should remember some of their own good friends who are dilatory in such matters.

Another source of real aid to the Southern correspondents is the bundles of patchwork pieces which many women use with real ingenuity. Newport, R. I., Cambridge First Parish, and Brookline First Parish, lead in the number of these sent. Somerville Branch eclipses all others in the number of scrapbooks made. The Hingham Chairman has found that the making of these books of bright-colored pictures appeals to many, from small children with altruistic yearnings to elderly ladies with spare time on their hands.

Two outstanding results of *Cheerful Letter* work deserve special attention. The chairman of the Needham, Mass., committee writes as follows: "The only special work of any unusual interest concerns a little boy, son of one of our correspondents in Missouri. The child was becoming permanently crippled with Potts' disease. With the friendly coöperation of Dr. Martha M. Eliot, he was admitted to the Children's Hospital in St. Louis on a free bed; he is improving so much after ten months of skillful medical care that he will return to his parents in September permanently cured. The family are most appreciative of our efforts in behalf of their little son." The chairman modestly neglects to relate her own connection with the cure.

The chairman of the Hubbardston, Mass., committee sends the second bit of information. Their one correspondent is also the dear friend of the whole Alliance, who affectionately refer to her as "Our Katie." Living far from liberal church influences, through literature and letters sent her she became converted to Unitarianism. Last year on Easter Sunday she and her husband—by signed statements—joined the Hubbardston Unitarian Church. Now she is joyfully spreading liberal doctrine and secular reading in her community.

Is *Cheerful Letter* work worth the effort it requires? The following extracts from letters of workers and correspondents may answer the question.

The chairman of a New York committee writes: "I feel sure that what I have done has been worth while. It is as inspiring and interest-

ing as possible. Hearing from my *Cheerful Letter* friends only makes me feel how happy and thankful all of us more fortunate ones ought to be, for so many blessings that are denied those whom we try to help."

A worker in the Middle West writes: "This Chairman said when the annual meeting was approaching that if they did not reappoint her she would not relinquish certain correspondents. She was reappointed. Was this using politics or force?"

On the other hand, a school-teacher in the Southern mountains writes: "Words fail to express my gratitude to you for fixing and sending such a nice big box for our school. Words fail also to express the surprise and pleasure it gave the children when the contents were distributed among them. I just feel so glad and thankful that you are interested in us and can interest others to such an advantage. The thought is encouraging."

A busy mother writes: "I received the magazines and we are all enjoying them. I have spent several delightful hours with them. Thank you so much. Write soon, I love your letters so much."

A small girl adds her bit, laboriously written: "Thank you for my present and I hope you had a merry Christmas. I loved my sack of candy."

Respectfully submitted,

ETHEL LANE HERSEY, *Secretary*.

The station-master, hearing a crash on the platform, rushed out of his room just in time to see the express that had just passed through disappearing around the curve and a dishevelled young man sprawled out perfectly flat among a confusion of overturned milk-cans and the scattered contents of his traveling-bag. "Was he trying to catch the train?" the station-master asked of a small boy who stood by, admiring the scene. "He did catch it," said the boy, "but it got away again!"—*Youth's Companion*.

All men upon this earth have the same origin. One alone is Father and King of all. He gave to the sun his beams and to the moon her horns. He gave the earth to man and adorned the heavens with stars. He has clothed with bodies the souls that he has sent forth. All mortals therefore are of noble birth. There is no one ignoble save the man who abandons his heart to evil, forgetting whence he sprang.—*Boethius, Italy, 6th Century A.D.*

The path of progress for each individual soul lies along the pathway of hope. This is the way of salvation.—*James Freeman Clarke*.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE IN THE JUNE NUMBER

Some Curious Birds

1, Swift; 2, stilt; 3, tattler; 4, kite; 5, adjutant; 6, jay; 7, thrasher; 8, gull; 9, nutcracker; 10, crane; 11, bluebird; 12, rook; 13, wren; 14, chat; 15, spoonbill; 16, rudderduck; 17, lyre bird; 18, canary; 19, loon; 20, whippoorwill; 21, weaver; 22, bunting; 23, lark; 24, stork; 25, swallow; 26, rail; 27, mocking bird; 28, cuckoo; 29, nightingale; 30, owl.

And let it be remembered that this Divine aid is really *help*. It does not supersede human exertion, but helps to make it effective. It does not overbear the human faculties, but invigorates them. It does not substitute a foreign virtue, attaching it like foreign fruit to dead branches, but it puts life into the trunk that it may bear fruit of itself.—*Ephraim Peabody*.

Who slays the lion? Who slays the giant? That does he who tames himself.—*Walther von der Vogelweide, Germany, 12th Century*.

THE CHEERFUL LETTER EXCHANGE

ITS PURPOSE

To cheer and comfort those who are ill, lonely, or discouraged, through the exchange of letters and by gifts of books and magazines.

To help those who live far from schools, or who wish to continue their studies by means of correspondence with a teacher.

To give to those living far from church some of the helps which churches give. One good sermon or similar article is printed in each number. These sermons are never doctrinal, but present only such simple religious truths and principles as are agreed on by all churches.

WHERE TO WRITE

1. *Letters paying for subscriptions to the paper*, fifty cents a year, should be sent to the Cheerful Letter Exchange, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. Checks or postal orders should be made payable to the Cheerful Letter Exchange.

2. *Letters asking for correspondents, for books, magazines, cards, etc.*, also *letters offering to give books, magazines, etc.*, should be sent to Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 25 Fairmount Way, Quincy, Mass.

See special suggestions under the heading of the "Book and Magazine Club" in this number.

3. *Letters asking for help in studying at home* should be sent to Mrs. George O. Sands, Brimble Ave., North Beverly, Mass.

The Home Study Committee has on hand a variety of schoolbooks which may be used by students either at home or in the schoolroom. The aim of the teachers is to help in any study where help is needed. Often this may fit a person for a higher grade of work.

4. *Letters asking for music and letters offering music* should be sent to Mrs. Thomas Lacey, at 4 East 88th St., New York City, or to All Souls Church, Fourth Ave. and 20th St., New York City.

5. *Letters about the establishment of Circulating Libraries* should be sent to Mrs. H. A. Stevens, 26 John St., Brookline, Mass.

A Circulating Library will be started in any small community needing one, if proper location and care can be furnished and satisfactory references can be given. One hundred and forty-nine libraries are now on our lists.

6. The Secretary of the Cheerful Letter Exchange, Miss Ethel L. Hersey, Hingham, Mass., should receive the more general correspondence from workers on the local committees, or from others interested in the organization and its methods.

Notice to those who give:—

Only books of an instructive or wholesomely amusing character should be offered. Classics, educational works, and standard novels and magazines are always acceptable.

There is a large call for scraps of calico, gingham, and percale for patchwork.

To those who receive:—

It is a rule of the Cheerful Letter Exchange that no one ask for money or for clothing in the columns of this paper. The name of any person who fails to obey this rule will be dropped from our list. Any worker receiving such a request should send the letter at once to headquarters.